

Bill Horn's Bulletin

Supervisor Bill Horn District 5 Newsletter October - December 2000



Bill Horn, his wife Kathy and the San Diego Padre's Friar get ready to present a County Proclamation to Tony Gwynn for his many contributions to children in San Diego County. See the story below.

The new year of 2001 is almost here and San Diego has seen a lot of things happen in 2000 including rising gasoline prices and electricity rates that have gone through the roof. Next year as Chairman of the County Board of Supervisors I intend to continue to find solutions to transportation, health and social issues that affect our quality of life.

The year 2001 will bring an odyssey of new challenges for San Diego and with your input we will be ready to face the future of our growing County and economy. I invite you to join me this coming February when I will give the State of the County address in Escondido at the California Center of the Performing Arts. See you there.

Bill Horn

Supervisor Horn Fights to Lower Electric Rates



Supervisor Bill Horn leads the San Diego City electric rate protest in front of the State Building in Downtown San Diego.

San Diego County has suffered the last few months with electricity rates that have doubled and tripled since last year. The reason behind the soaring rates is that the State Legislature deregulated California's power industry at State Senator Steve Peace's lead. "The only thing worst than a regulated monopoly, is a deregulated monopoly," stated Bill Horn at the August 17th rally.

Supervisor Horn also held community rallies in San Marcos and Borrego Springs where record numbers of citizens came and expressed their complaints about rising rates. Many folks brought copies of this year's and last year's SDG&E bills that showed significant rate increases. Supervisor Horn also made trips to San Francisco and Sacramento to lobby for lower rates to the Public Utilities Commission and members of the State Legislature.

"The relief San Diego received in Sacramento is only a short-term temporary fix," stated Bill Horn. "What we need is a long-term solution and we are exploring ways to become self sufficient," said Horn.

In September, Bill Horn proposed to the Board of Supervisors that the County look into becoming an Electrical Service Provider (ESP). The County could then purchase cheaper electricity, possibly from Federal hydroelectric generators to bring down and stabilize electric rates. Residents and businesses could then sign up to receive their electricity from San Diego County.

"I do not want to put SDG&E out of business and I do not think the County should become a power generating company," said Supervisor Horn. "But, if the County can provide lower rates, we could force competition in the electrical market and that would help us all."

Honoring the Tony and Alicia Gwynn Foundation



San Diego Padre Tony Gwynn accepts a County Proclamation from Supervisor Bill Horn, honoring the Tony and Alicia Gwynn Foundation.

Everyone in San Diego knows that Padre outfielder Tony Gwynn is a hero on the baseball field and Supervisor Bill Horn wants San Diego to know that Tony and Alicia Gwynn are also heroes in our communities.

This year the Tony and Alicia Gwynn (TAG) Foundation gave over \$100,000 to organizations in San Diego County that help children who have been abused, neglected, or are mentally or physically challenged. The TAG Foundation was founded in 1996 in response to numerous requests from many charities the Gwynns felt should be supported. This year five organizations received generous TAG Foundation donations of \$20,000 apiece, they were: Casa de Amparo, New Haven Youth and Family Services, the Jackie Robinson Family YMCA, the Pomerado Health Foundation and the American Lung Association. Supervisor Horn was so impressed with the Gwynn's spirit of giving that he decided to honor them proclaiming August 18, 2000 as Tony and Alicia Gwynn Day throughout the County of San Diego. Tony received one of the proclamations in a private clubhouse ceremony and then Supervisor Horn presented a proclamation publicly to TAG Foundation Executive Director Bill Coffey at the Pre-game ceremony.

Fallbrook Reopens Downtown Main Street

Five Blocks of Fallbrook's downtown known as the "Village Beautification Area" reopened on August 24, 2000 with Supervisor Bill Horn, the Fallbrook Chamber of

Commerce and local businesses on hand for the celebration. Improvements to the medians and a new concrete asphalt overlay to Main Street will improve the driving surface and provide a more pedestrian friendly atmosphere through traffic calming and beautification. The project is helping make downtown Fallbrook visitor and business friendly.

Announcing the Return of County Medical Services to North County

Escondido -- Supervisor Bill Horn is pleased to announce that Palomar Pomerado Hospitals have agreed to rejoin the County Medical Services program. The announcement came on September 14, 2000 and Palomar Pomerado Hospitals will begin treating qualifying indigent patients on October 1, 2000.

“What this means is that CMS patients who had to travel all the way down to Scripps Hospital in Encinitas, will now be able to receive treatment either at Palomar in Escondido or Pomerado in Poway,” stated Supervisor Horn.

Their participation in the CMS program came about from an initiative started by Supervisor Horn as part of the County’s overall plan to improve access to healthcare and makes them eligible to receive an additional sum of \$1.5 million. This money, from Tobacco settlement Funds, was set aside by the Board of Supervisors specifically to be used to reimburse North County hospitals should they agree to participate in the CMS program. The participation of Palomar and Pomerado hospitals will be of great benefit to the citizens of North County who access the CMS services. From the ER to planned surgeries and specialist referrals, local access to hospital services will provide better, more convenient and timely healthcare services.

Be sure to sign up for Supervisor Horn's free newsletter. Keep up on all of the issues and stories affecting San Diego's North County.